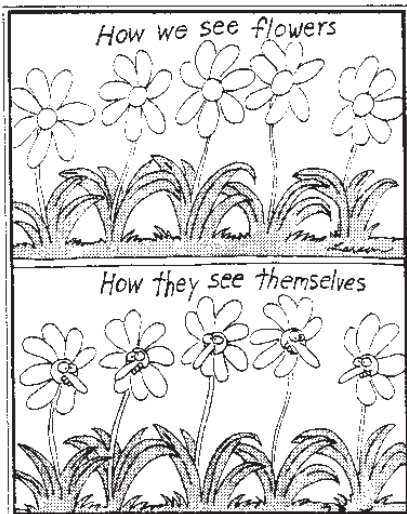


**BOTANY UNDERGRADUATE
DEPARTMENTAL SOCIETY**



Introduction

The Botany Undergraduate Departmental Society (BUDS) is a student-run organization working on behalf of all undergraduates taking botany and biology courses. BUDS organizes fun events, from academic seminars to socials and movie nights, which are offered free to all undergraduates. Drop by our office (ES 3084), call us at 416-978-0954 or email us at: buds@botany.utoronto.ca

BUDS Executive

BIO 250Y1Y Cell and Molecular Biology

Instructor(s): M. French; B. Chang

Enr: 1650 Resp: 1078 Retake: 66%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
<u>French:</u>								
Presents	0	0	1	8	31	41	15	5.6
Explains	0	0	2	9	31	39	16	5.6
Communicates	0	0	2	11	35	36	12	5.4
Teaching	0	0	0	10	30	43	13	5.6
<u>Chang:</u>								
Presents	1	2	5	16	29	33	11	5.2
Explains	1	2	7	21	34	23	7	4.9
Communicates	2	4	11	24	32	19	5	4.6
Teaching	1	2	7	22	35	23	6	4.8
<u>Course:</u>								
Workload	0	0	3	43	33	14	4	4.7
Difficulty	0	0	1	44	35	14	2	4.7
Learn Exp	0	1	3	39	33	17	3	4.7

French was an enthusiastic and clear lecturer. Students felt that their questions were given full attention and that the instructor was approachable. French took the time to make sure that the concepts introduced were understood and students appreciated the "blue folder".

It was generally felt that the lectures were well-organized. The use of fill-in-the-blanks during lectures was competition for actually listening to what was being said. Grading for the course assignments should have been more consistent. Most students liked the instructor moderated forums online and would have appreciated having a set tutorial. Students would have liked two midterms instead of one term final.

Chang presented well-organized lectures and dealt with challenging material well. It was felt that Chang lacked enthusiasm and seemed unapproachable at times. Students sometimes felt they were not given adequate time to take notes and that she could have used more examples or better analogies. It was also felt that Chang could have adjusted her tone so as not to seem so condescending. Overall, she performed effectively and her first teaching effort was appreciated.

Instructor(s): V. Tropepe; D. Goring

Enr: 1126 Resp: 821 Retake: 53%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
<u>Tropepe:</u>								
Presents	0	0	0	11	33	41	12	5.5
Explains	0	0	1	10	33	41	13	5.5
Communicates	0	0	1	11	28	40	16	5.5
Teaching	0	0	1	12	36	38	10	5.4
<u>Goring:</u>								
Presents	5	7	18	29	25	11	1	4.0
Explains	3	7	18	26	28	11	2	4.2
Communicates	4	7	14	32	24	13	1	4.1
Teaching	2	6	16	32	28	10	2	4.2
<u>Course:</u>								
Workload	0	0	2	48	32	11	4	4.6
Difficulty	0	0	1	47	32	12	5	4.7
Learn Exp	2	1	8	45	28	10	2	4.4

Students considered Tropepe to be an effective and knowledgeable lecturer, who displayed considerable enthusiasm for the material. The lectures were well-organized, delivered at a good pace, and concepts were explained with great clarity.

Many students were appreciative of Goring's use of animations to explain concepts, yet lecture notes were otherwise considered fragmented, disorganized and unclear. Lectures were considered difficult to understand and occasionally rushed.

Respondents generally found the course material interesting, but found there was too much reliance on memorization. The course was organized such that labs were relevant to topics covered during the lecture section. Students exhibited a general preference for wet labs over dry labs, and felt the laboratory section should have been worth more of the course mark. Many students stated they were given insufficient guidance for writing assignments, yet the assignments were judged to be a helpful application of the material learned in class. Several students suggested four tests be administered throughout the year rather than just two, and many considered the use of multiple choice to be an ineffective method of evaluation.

Instructor(s): M. French

Enr: 307 Resp: 286 Retake: 61%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
<u>French:</u>								
Presents	0	0	0	8	24	46	18	5.7
Explains	1	0	1	9	24	45	17	5.6
Communicates	1	0	1	8	21	40	26	5.8
Teaching	0	0	0	6	21	46	23	5.8
Workload	0	0	2	42	28	20	6	4.9
Difficulty	0	0	3	35	37	17	4	4.9
Learn Exp	3	2	3	40	29	17	3	4.6

French was described as an enthusiastic and good lecturer. The labs were found to be somewhat boring and not relevant to the test material. Students felt they could approach the instructor and that she was very helpful. The written assignments were found to be harshly marked and not a valuable learning experience.

BIO 260H1S Genetics

Instructor(s): D. Guttman; P. McCourt

Enr: 266 Resp: 182 Retake: 55%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
<u>Guttman:</u>								
Presents	1	1	7	22	30	29	7	5.0
Explains	0	0	6	23	32	29	7	5.0
Communicates	0	1	6	11	38	29	12	5.3
Teaching	0	0	2	20	37	29	9	5.2
<u>McCourt:</u>								
Presents	5	5	11	25	25	21	6	4.5
Explains	2	1	6	18	30	32	8	5.0
Communicates	0	1	3	18	32	38	12	5.4
Teaching	2	1	8	17	32	26	10	5.0

12 BOTANY

Course:								
Workload	0	0	1	50	30	13	3	4.7
Difficulty	0	0	0	32	36	19	10	5.1
Learn Exp	1	2	6	41	29	14	3	4.5

Guttman was enthusiastic and well-organized with his slides. Students appreciated the availability of lecture notes online, but some felt that material was covered too quickly. His assignments were relevant to what was covered in lectures but students felt the NCBI lecture should have been a tutorial. Examples were interesting but perhaps more supplemental readings should have been made available.

McCourt was enthusiastic and worked to make the lectures interactive. Students felt that he could have been better organized but liked the fact that he reinforced the most important concepts. Most students appreciated his problem-based approach. Lots of students were disappointed that they could not look over their midterm test to learn from their mistakes. Other than that, McCourt was approachable and encouraging.

Most students found the text to be insufficient and the second assignment was thought to be unfair. Tutorials were dependent on the specific TA - some were excellent, others not.

BIO 328H1F Physiological Ecology

Instructor(s): R. Sage

Enr: 29	Resp: 21							Retake: 95%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean	
Presents	0	0	0	9	57	23	9	5.3	
Explains	0	0	0	5	35	35	25	5.8	
Communicates	0	0	0	0	19	42	38	6.2	
Teaching	0	0	0	0	23	38	38	6.1	
Workload	0	0	0	61	28	9	0	4.5	
Difficulty	0	0	0	66	14	19	0	4.5	
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	43	37	18	5.8	

Students were impressed with the well-planned and organized lectures, as well as the instructor's enthusiasm for the material. Although some readings were found to be a little ambiguous, they did not deter from what proved to be a great learning experience.

BIO 428H1S Global Change Ecology

Instructor(s): T. Feild

Enr: 37	Resp: 31							Retake: 81%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean	
Presents	0	0	6	6	46	33	6	5.3	
Explains	0	0	0	3	38	35	22	5.8	
Communicates	0	0	0	3	13	58	24	6.0	
Teaching	0	0	3	3	26	46	20	5.8	
Workload	0	0	6	36	33	20	3	4.8	
Difficulty	0	3	3	77	16	0	0	4.1	
Learn Exp	0	4	4	36	12	36	8	5.0	

Students found Feild to be enthusiastic, helpful and good at leading interesting class discussion. At times students were unable to distinguish exactly what information was most relevant, but enjoyed and benefited from Feild's personal experiences in ecology and conservation. Some students thought some background ecology course(s) should have been prerequisite. Overall, this course was an enjoyable experience.

BIO 472H1S Computational Genomics and Bioinformatics

Instructor(s): N. Provart; D. Guttman

Enr: 25	Resp: 17							Retake: 81%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean	
<u>Provart:</u>									
Presents	0	0	0	5	41	35	17	5.6	
Explains	0	0	0	17	41	29	11	5.4	
Communicates	0	0	0	23	17	41	17	5.5	
Teaching	0	0	0	0	47	35	17	5.7	
<u>Guttman:</u>									
Presents	0	0	5	0	23	41	29	5.9	
Explains	0	0	5	5	35	47	5	5.4	

Communicates	0	0	5	17	11	52	11	5.5
Teaching	0	0	5	0	41	41	11	5.5
<u>Course:</u>								
Workload	0	0	5	64	23	5	0	4.3
Difficulty	0	0	5	41	29	23	0	4.7
Learn Exp	0	0	0	42	14	35	7	5.1

Students commented that Provart showed great enthusiasm in the course material and presented it in a clear and organized manner.

Guttman was praised as being an enthusiastic, organized lecturer who was always willing to answer students' questions.

Many students found that the computer programming portion of the course was difficult and felt that some basic computer programming skills should have been taught.

BIO 473H1S Chemical Biology

Instructor(s): S. Cutler

Enr: 29	Resp: 25							Retake: 76%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean	
Presents	0	0	4	12	28	40	16	5.5	
Explains	0	0	4	12	25	33	25	5.6	
Communicates	0	0	4	8	36	40	12	5.5	
Teaching	0	0	0	4	32	52	12	5.7	
Workload	0	0	8	37	33	16	4	4.7	
Difficulty	0	0	4	37	37	12	8	4.8	
Learn Exp	0	0	0	47	21	15	15	5.0	

Cutler was extremely knowledgeable, approachable and enthusiastic. Some students felt as though the course could have used a more definite direction and perhaps more references or a textbook. The material presented was very interesting and a good variety of biochemistry was covered. Background methodologies should have been provided for some of the more complex readings. Some students felt the workload was very high, but overall, this "cutting edge" course was enjoyed.

BOT 202Y1Y Plants and Society

Instructor(s): S. Barrett; C. Muis-Griffin

Enr: 108	Resp: 40							Retake: 83%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean	
<u>Barrett:</u>									
Presents	0	0	0	0	2	45	51	6.5	
Explains	0	0	0	0	12	56	30	6.2	
Communicates	0	0	0	0	5	38	56	6.5	
Teaching	0	0	0	5	5	46	43	6.3	
<u>Muis-Griffin:</u>									
Presents	0	0	0	0	14	51	33	6.2	
Explains	0	0	0	3	14	51	29	6.1	
Communicates	0	0	0	0	3	48	48	6.4	
Teaching	0	0	0	7	14	48	29	6.0	
<u>Course:</u>									
Workload	5	10	34	44	0	5	0	3.4	
Difficulty	0	8	13	67	8	0	2	3.9	
Learn Exp	0	0	0	27	24	31	17	5.4	

The first half of this course was enjoyed and recommended by students in programs other than the sciences. The instructors were enthusiastic and knowledgeable.

Instructor(s): K. Yoshioka

Enr: 94	Resp: 52							Retake: 61%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean	
Presents	0	0	0	6	36	42	16	5.7	
Explains	0	0	4	12	42	28	14	5.4	
Communicates	0	0	2	10	30	40	18	5.6	
Teaching	0	0	2	12	47	20	16	5.4	
Workload	4	15	17	54	4	0	4	3.6	
Difficulty	2	2	20	46	22	4	2	4.1	
Learn Exp	2	2	2	42	22	11	14	4.7	

Students found Yoshioka to be enthusiastic and felt she made an effort to ensure students understood the topics she presented. Slides were presented in a well-organized manner but they were sometimes hard to follow for students outside the science stream. Course expectations were well-conveyed and she was good at answering questions.

Students felt that the course was sometimes too complex for those without any prior science knowledge. Most, though, felt that the topics that were presented were very interesting.

BOT 251Y1Y Biology of Plants and Micro-organisms

Instructor(s): R. Sage

Enr: 368 Resp: 146 Retake: 63%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	2	13	27	36	17	5.6
Explains	0	0	1	16	26	39	16	5.5
Communicates	0	0	4	17	23	28	25	5.5
Teaching	0	0	0	10	26	37	24	5.8
Workload	1	1	5	54	26	8	2	4.4
Difficulty	1	1	6	60	20	9	0	4.3
Learn Exp	0	3	4	41	27	16	5	4.7

Sage was considered to be a good lecturer overall, whose sense of humour and enthusiasm for the material kept students interested and engaged. Concepts were communicated clearly and effectively, and labs provided useful illustration of lecture material. Many students felt that the labs weren't worth enough of the final mark (1%).

Instructor(s): T. Sage; T. Feild

Enr: 346 Resp: 228 Retake: 49%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
<u>Sage:</u>								
Presents	0	0	5	17	37	29	9	5.2
Explains	0	0	1	18	39	30	9	5.3
Communicates	0	0	3	17	33	33	12	5.3
Teaching	0	0	1	18	32	31	15	5.4
<u>Feild:</u>								
Presents	0	1	6	27	31	24	8	4.9
Explains	0	0	7	20	40	23	8	5.0
Communicates	1	0	1	14	28	33	20	5.5
Teaching	0	2	4	24	30	27	9	5.0
<u>Course:</u>								
Workload	0	1	14	61	17	4	0	4.1
Difficulty	0	0	9	63	19	5	0	4.2
Learn Exp	1	1	12	54	22	4	2	4.2

Sage was considered to be an approachable and considerate lecturer who offered many opportunities for students' questions in class. Some students felt lecture notes should have been designed to include room for annotations.

Feild was an enthusiastic and interesting lecturer, yet some felt the lecture notes were too dense. Many students felt Feild should have been more explicit in indicating what material was to be tested.

The lectures given by both instructors were generally found to be well-organized and clear, and often accompanied by interesting anecdotes. Many students were dissatisfied with the content and organization of the labs, and felt the laboratory section should have been worth more of the course mark.

BOT 300H1S Systematic Botany

Instructor(s): J. Eckenwalder

Enr: 24 Resp: 18 Retake: 60%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	5	11	22	33	16	11	0	3.8
Explains	0	11	16	27	33	11	0	4.2
Communicates	0	5	5	16	22	33	16	5.2
Teaching	0	0	0	38	33	27	0	4.9
Workload	0	0	16	61	22	0	0	4.1
Difficulty	0	0	11	50	38	0	0	4.3
Learn Exp	0	0	15	38	30	15	0	4.5

Overall, students found the course to be enjoyable. Eckenwalder was described as enthusiastic, friendly and very knowledgeable. The lectures were found to be confusing and disorganized at times. Labs were found to be interesting but some students felt they did not have an adequate background in plant anatomy to be successful in the course.

BOT 301H1F Introduction to the Fungi

Instructor(s): J. Moncalvo

Enr: 31 Resp: 16 Retake: 92%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	12	31	31	25	5.7
Explains	0	0	0	6	37	25	31	5.8
Communicates	0	0	0	0	18	18	62	6.4
Teaching	0	0	0	0	25	37	37	6.1
Workload	0	0	6	53	33	0	6	4.5
Difficulty	0	0	0	60	33	6	0	4.5
Learn Exp	0	0	0	45	18	18	18	5.1

Moncalvo was very approachable and encouraging - presenting a broad range of information. Field trips were highly enjoyed and most students recommended the course.

BOT 307H1F Families of Vascular Plants

Instructor(s): T. Dickinson

Enr: 26 Resp: 22 Retake: 94%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	18	31	31	9	9	4.6
Explains	0	0	0	19	33	23	23	5.5
Communicates	0	0	0	4	9	36	50	6.3
Teaching	0	0	0	13	0	54	31	6.0
Workload	0	4	13	45	31	4	0	4.2
Difficulty	0	9	22	54	13	0	0	3.7
Learn Exp	0	0	0	27	38	22	11	5.2

Most students found the instructor both helpful and approachable. Most students found the assignments valuable but thought the text somewhat lacking in relevant information. The website should have been better organized and notes made available online. Overall, students found this course to be worthwhile.

BOT 310H1S Comparative Plant Morphology

Instructor(s): T. Sage

Enr: 36 Resp: 27 Retake: 84%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	3	7	22	48	18	5.7
Explains	0	0	0	3	14	48	33	6.1
Communicates	0	0	0	0	11	37	51	6.4
Teaching	0	0	0	0	14	40	44	6.3
Workload	0	0	15	46	30	7	0	4.3
Difficulty	0	0	3	53	30	11	0	4.5
Learn Exp	0	0	4	26	26	39	4	5.1

Sage was considered a very good lecturer who was very approachable and always willing to answer questions. Many students stated that both the lecture and the lab material was very interesting and complemented each other well.

BOT 404H1S Biology of Moulds

Instructor(s): J. Scott

Enr: 23 Resp: 20 Retake: 90%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	5	5	15	36	36	5.9
Explains	0	0	0	10	10	30	50	6.2
Communicates	0	0	0	0	15	10	75	6.6
Teaching	0	0	0	5	15	31	47	6.2
Workload	0	0	5	50	45	0	0	4.4
Difficulty	0	0	0	40	55	5	0	4.7
Learn Exp	0	0	0	18	12	43	25	5.8

14 BOTANY

Students thoroughly enjoyed the course and commented that Scott was an enthusiastic lecturer who was always willing to answer questions. Some students found the material to be challenging and would have benefited from better organization.

BOT 450H1S Plant Proteomics and Metabolomics

Instructor(s): D. Christendat

	Enr: 25							Mean
	Resp: 21				Retake: 55%			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	5	15	21	21	21	15	0	3.8
Explains	0	5	21	47	10	15	0	4.1
Communicates	0	0	5	31	31	26	5	4.9
Teaching	0	5	26	26	15	21	5	4.4
Workload	0	0	0	61	33	5	0	4.4
Difficulty	0	0	5	72	16	5	0	4.2
Learn Exp	0	0	23	23	23	30	0	4.6

Students found the course material to be interesting and informative, and that the assignments complemented the lecture material well. Students felt that Christendat was helpful but a little disorganized at times. Some would have benefited from a greater clarification of notes and slides.

BOT 458H1F Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology

Instructor(s): D. Goring

	Enr: 41							Mean
	Resp: 24				Retake: 82%			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	8	0	0	4	8	33	45	5.9
Explains	8	0	0	0	16	33	41	5.8
Communicates	8	0	0	4	16	50	20	5.5
Teaching	8	0	0	4	12	37	37	5.8
Workload	0	0	0	75	12	4	8	4.5
Difficulty	0	0	4	50	29	8	8	4.7
Learn Exp	11	0	0	5	23	35	23	5.3

Goring was organized, good at providing clear examples, and was available for extra help. Students felt that the instructor took the time to ensure that everyone understood the material.

MGY 460H1S Plant Molecular Genetics

Instructor(s): P. McCourt; S. Cutler

	Enr: 24							Mean
	Resp: 20				Retake: 66%			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
<u>McCourt:</u>								
Presents	5	0	5	25	25	30	10	4.9
Explains	0	5	0	10	30	10	45	5.8
Communicates	0	0	0	5	35	30	30	5.8
Teaching	0	5	0	20	20	40	15	5.3
<u>Cutler:</u>								
Presents	5	0	10	10	30	35	10	5.1
Explains	0	0	10	10	35	25	20	5.3
Communicates	0	0	0	36	26	21	15	5.2
Teaching	0	0	0	20	40	25	15	5.3
<u>Course:</u>								
Workload	0	0	0	84	5	10	0	4.3
Difficulty	0	0	0	47	36	15	0	4.7
Learn Exp	0	0	0	53	13	13	20	5.0

Most students enjoyed McCourt's teaching style and his enthusiasm for the material. His approach was interesting and understandable. Most found his test difficult and expressed a desire for having additional assignments and/or problem sets as preparation.

Most thought Cutler did a good job as a lecturer and liked how he invited questions from the class. He was patient and well-organized. Most students wanted an additional assignment instead of the 50% mid-term/ 50% final marking scheme for this course.

Overall, students enjoyed this course.

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